MARVEL
CONAN THE KING
$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
46
MAY
UK 50p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
DOUGHERTY & BEATTY

BEFORE DAWN ON THE CORINTHIAN PLAIN SURROUNDING THE CITY OF ARBITANA, KING CONAN ROUSES HIS ARMY FOR THE COMING BATTLE AGAINST THE CORINTHIANS AND KOTHIANS. PRINCE CONN AND KING DERYCK ANNOUNCE THAT THE BRYTHUNIANS AND HYPERBOREANS HAVE JOINED THE ENEMY ALLIANCE UNDER THE COMMAND OF...

The Warlord of Koth

DERYCK, WHEN YOU TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR AESIR, YOU AND CONN WILL WAIT UNTIL I ENGAGE THE ENEMY BEFORE YOU STRIKE.

AYE, FATHER. *WE* SURPRISE *THEM* AS THEY TRY TO TRAP *YOU*.

AND, BY YMIR, THEY'LL FIND *THEMSELVES* ENSNARED.

DOCHERTY & BATOR

DON KRAAR — WRITER
MIKE DOCHERTY — PENCILS
FRAJA BATOR — INKS
JANICE CHIANG — LETTERS
GEORGE ROUSSOS — COLORS
PAT REDDING — MANAGING EDITOR
MICHAEL HIGGINS — EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO — EDITOR IN CHIEF

CONAN THE KING ™ **Vol. 1, No. 46, May, 1988.** (U.S.P.S. 589-610) Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY. James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1988 by Conan Properties, Inc. CONAN THE KING (including all prominent characters featured in this issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of Conan Properties, Inc. All advertising and editorial material copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $2.00 in Canada. Subscription rate $18.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $20.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and organizations in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.**

PRINCESS ILIA, WE SHALL FREE YOUR HOMELAND AND AVENGE YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH

I'VE WAITED FOR A LONG TIME.

MAY THE GODS BE ON YOUR SIDE, CONN.

GUARD HER WELL, RUFIO.

I'LL GUARD *HIM*. HE'S THE WOUNDED ONE.

WE MUST JOIN HAGAN, EAMON, AND KUAGA BEFORE DAWN. LET US BE OFF!

WOULD THAT I COULD GAZE INTO THE EYES OF MY PRINCE CONN.

I SEE THE WAY HE LOOKS AT YOU, MY PRINCESS. IF YOU *LISTEN*, YOU'LL KNOW YOU'VE WON HIS HEART.

CURSE THIS FOG!

BRING ME A SCOUT!

MOVE OUT TWO HUNDRED PACES DUE EAST! THAT'S THE MOST LIKELY DIRECTION FOR AN ATTACK.

PLANT THAT TORCH AS A MARKER FOR OUR ARCHERS. RETURN ON THEIR APPROACH.

WE WAIT FOR THE WARLORD OF KOTH.

TONIGHT YOU AND YOUR CHILD MUST DIE! I SHALL END CONAN'S DYNASTY ONCE AND FOR ALL!

IN THE CITY OF ARBITANA, THE SORCEROR CALIASTROS UNLEASHES THE FORCES OF DARKNESS OF A ANOTHER FRONT...

YES, QUEEN ZENOBIA, CHILDBIRTH IS AGONY!

TONIGHT THERE WILL BE NO NEW HEIR FOR KING CONAN!

IN THE ROYAL PALACE OF AQUILONIA...

PUBLIUS, THE QUEEN HAS A RAGING FEVER! SHE'S IN MORTAL DANGER!

EARLIER THIS EVENING SHE WAS IN PERFECT HEALTH FOR AN EXPECTING MOTHER.

PUBLIUS, I TELL YOU THAT BLACK MAGIC IS AFOOT.

I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT, HADRATHUS. *I* AM THE REGENT OF THIS KINGDOM. *YOU* ARE THE FOOL PRIEST OF AN OUTLAW CULT.

AIEEE

LISTEN...

MITRA'S SHADOW, IT'S THE QUEEN!

THE PAIN--!!

THE AIR IS ON FIRE!

TRY TO STAY CALM FOR THE CHILD'S SAKE, MY QUEEN.

SHE'S DELIRIOUS!! SHE MUST GET REST!

PUBLIUS, PRINCESS RADEGUND HAS GONE INTO LABOR! SHE HAS A FEVER JUST LIKE THE QUEEN!

MAY THE GODS PROTECT THEM.

ASURA WILL PROTECT THEM IF YOU'LL ALLOW IT, PUBLIUS.

I'M BEGGING YOU, PUBLIUS. ALLOW MY PEOPLE TO JOIN HANDS IN A RING OF FAITH AROUND THE ROYAL WOMEN'S CHAMBERS.

AIEEE

OH, NO...

GODS BE MERCIFUL...

THE QUEEN'S CHILD IS DEAD AND SHE IS STILL WITH FEVER- -SHE MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE THE SUNRISE.

NO... O, ASURA, NO...

WHAT HAVE I DONE? MAY THE CURSE OF THE GODS BE ON ME. WHAT HAVE I DONE...?

BEFORE DAWN IN CORINTHIA...

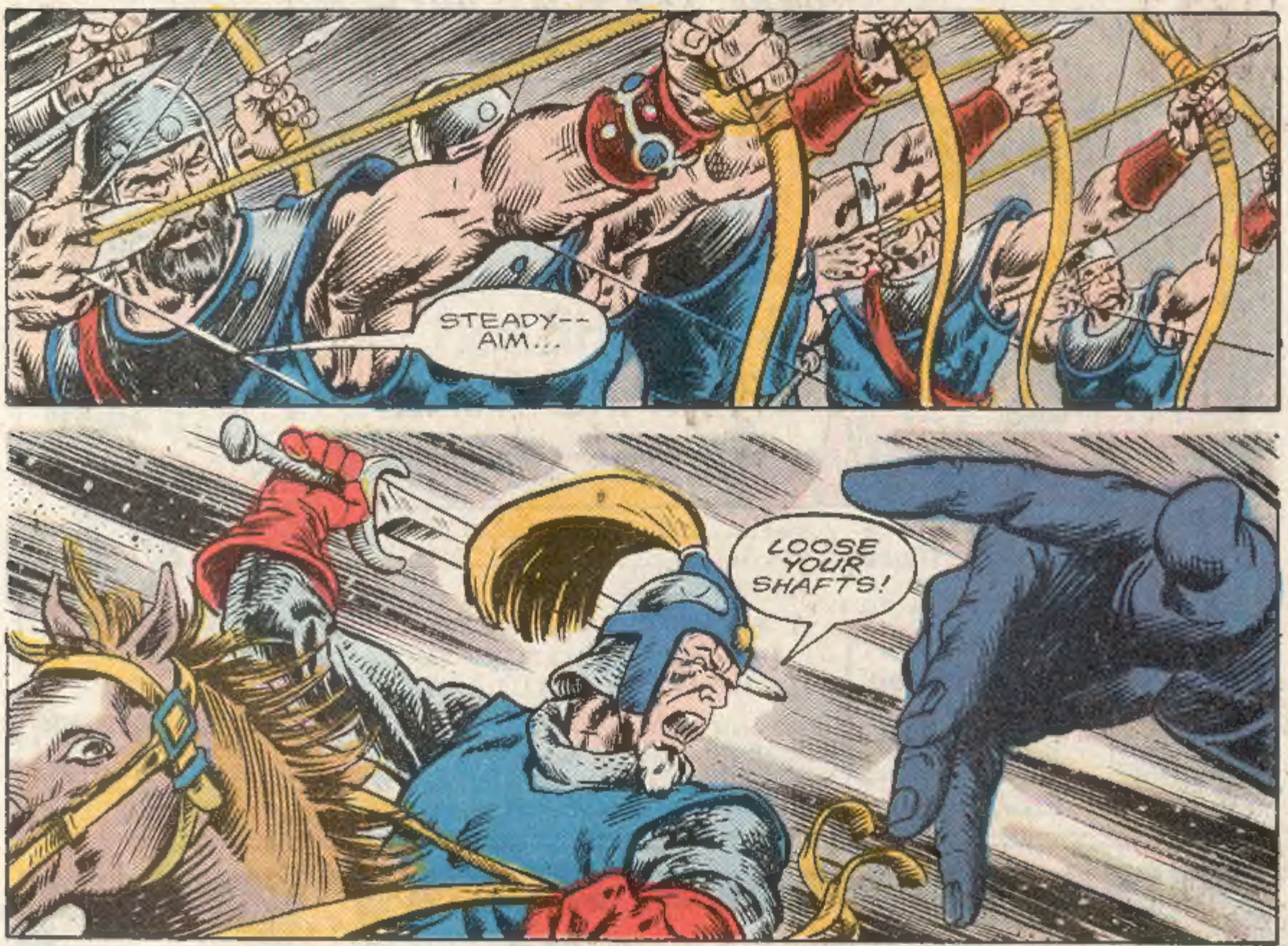
LISTEN, I HEAR THEIR HORSES AND ARMOR!

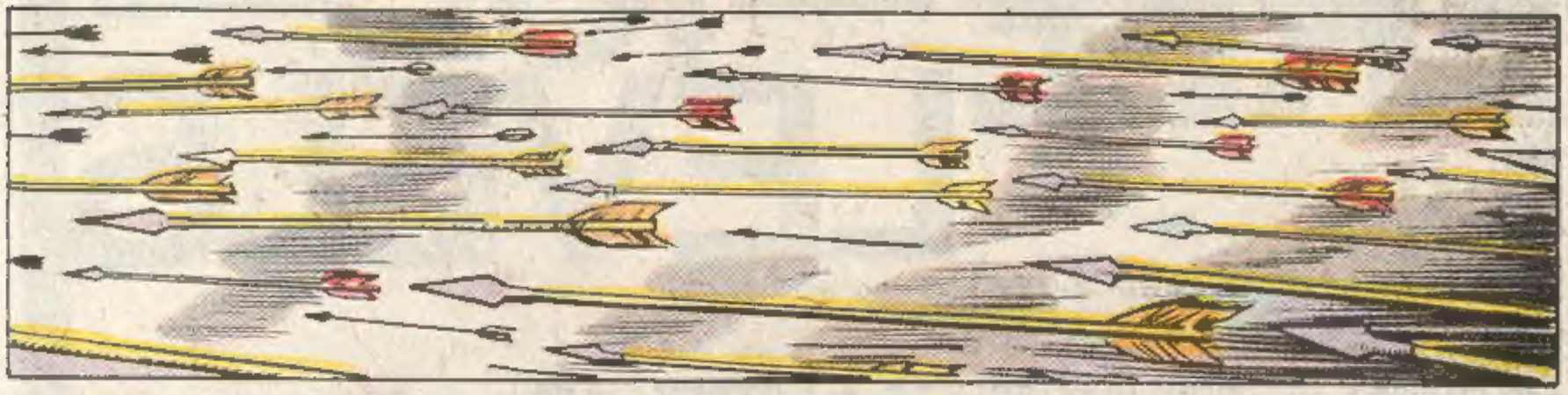
WAIT! HERE COMES OUR SCOUT!

LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER, KING CONAN! YOU WERE RIGHT, THEY'RE COMING IN FROM THE EAST!

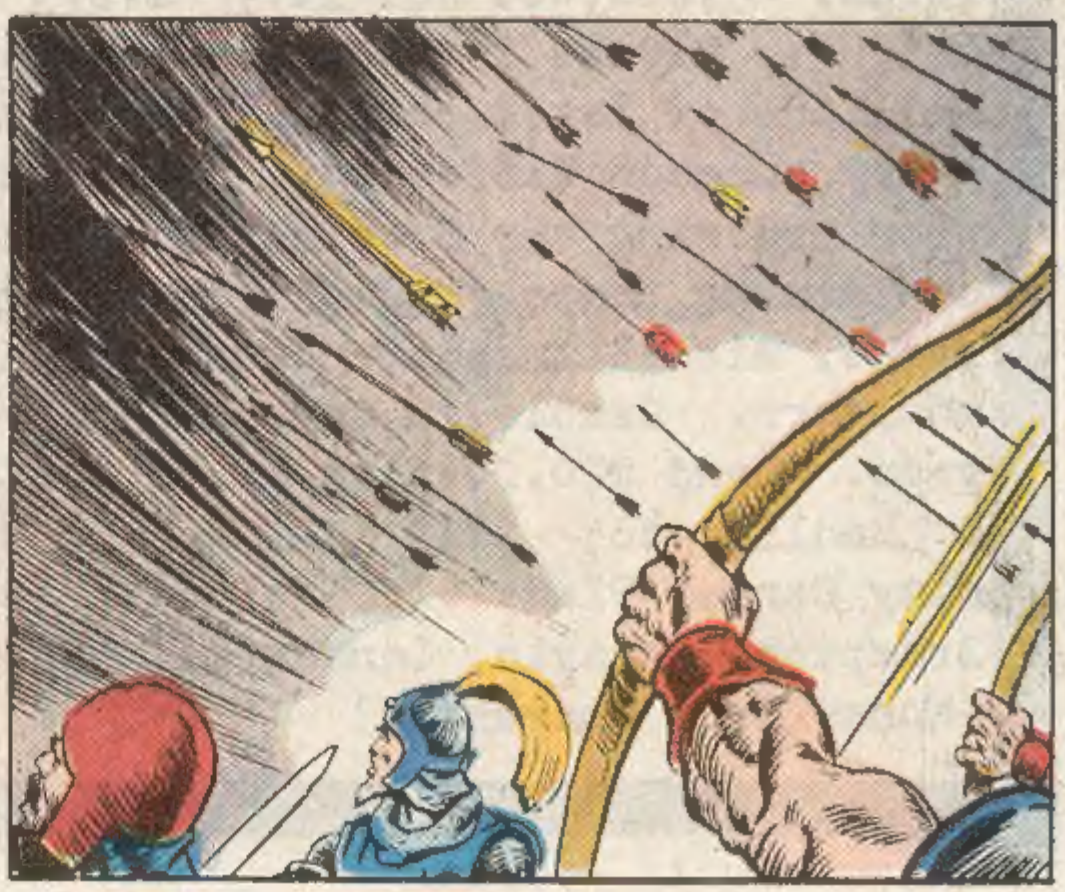
HOW MANY MEN?

IT IS THE MAIN FORCE OF CORINTHIANS AND KOTHIANS, YOUR MAJESTY.


STEADY-- AIM...
LOOSE YOUR SHAFTS!



AGH!
ARGH!
UGH!
AGAIN!



GO BACK TO PALLANTIDES! HE MAY ATTACK NOW!

AYE, MY KING!

ACROSS THE FIELD AT FIRST LIGHT OF DAY, BRAX-AL-THAR, THE WARLORD OF KOTH, HEARS THE SCREAMS OF HIS OWN WOUNDED MEN...

CALIASTROS, YOU WIZENED OLD GOAT, IF I'M GOING TO HAVE A VICTORY AS YOU PROMISED, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THIS.

MOVE THE KNIGHTS AND LANCERS INTO POSITION!

AYE, MY LORD!

THE KING SAYS THE TIME HAS COME!

PRAISE BE!!

CHARGE, YOU SADDLE-SORE BLOODHOUNDS!

YEEHA!

DOG BROTHERS, MITRA IS SMILING!

CHARGE!

YOU'RE TOO OLD FOR THIS, MY KING!

THEN I SHALL DIE IN THE FIGHT, THOCHRO

STUBBORN OLD BULL!

ON THE HEIGHTS ABOVE THE VALLEY FLOOR..

HOLD YOUR ARROWS! IT'S PRINCE CONN AND KING DERYCK, BACK FROM THE DEAD!

CONN, DERYCK! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

HAGAN KUAGA EAMON! WAIT UNTIL THE ENEMY ATTACKS CONAN'S POSITION AND WE'LL CLOSE THE TRAP!

PRAISE CROM! WHAT IS CONAN'S BATTLE PLAN?

BRYTHUNIANS AND HYBORIANS HAVE ADVANCED INTO THE VALLEY! WE FACE THEM AS WELL!

THEY DON'T KNOW *THEY'LL* BE FACING *US*. WE'RE GOING TO TURN THE TABLES ON THEIR SURPRISE ATTACK, MY FRIENDS! DOES THAT PLAN AGREE WITH THE KING OF THE AESIR AND THE WAR CHIEF OF KUSH?

AYE, BROTHER-IN-LAW!

IT SMELLS LIKE VICTORY TO ME, CONN AND IT SMELLS SWEET ALREADY!

THE BATTLE IS ON!

WE SHALL BE VICTORIOUS, CONN. WHEN WE RETURN TO TARANTIA, RADEGUND WILL HAVE GIVEN ME A SON - - AND YOU, A NEPHEW.

AYE, DERYCK AND I SHALL HAVE A NEW BROTHER OR SISTER AS WELL.

TARANTIA

PUBLIUS PUBLIUS. PLEASE LISTEN TO ME FOR THE QUEEN'S SAKE

DEAD..DEAD.. HADRATHUS... MY FAULT...ALL MY FAULT..

I'VE FAILED THEM, FAILED MY FRIENDS FAILED MY KING

THERE'S NO TIME TO CASTIGATE YOURSELF PUBLIUS WE MUST SAVE QUEEN ZENOBIA AND PRINCESS RADEGUND

I BETRAYED CONAN'S TRUST WITH MY OWN STUPIDITY. WHY DIDN'T I LISTEN TO YOU BEFORE?

LISTEN NOW! LET ME SUMMON THE ACOLYTES OF THE TEMPLE OF ASURA WE WILL CALL UPON THE PROTECTION OF OUR GODS!

COME QUICKLY, MIDWIFE! THE PRINCESS RADEGUND'S TIME HAS COME!

HOW IS SHE?

SHE'S BURNING UP WITH FEVER IT IS UNNATURAL!

MITRA!

MITRA, ASURA, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? HADRATHUS, DO WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT!

LOOK--THE SKY IS HEAVY WITH BLACK CLOUDS..

WOMAN, THE PRINCESS NEEDS YOU NOW GATHER YOUR STRENGTH!

.. BLACK CLOUDS! TONIGHT IS THE FULL MOON IT'S AN EVIL OMEN.

PUBLIUS MAY ASURA GRANT YOU PEACE AND WISDOM I'LL DO WHAT I KNOW IS RIGHT!

SUMMON ALL THE ACOLYTES AT ONCE, MY BROTHER!

AS YOU SAY, HADRATHUS

BRING A TORCH LIT WITH THE *SACRED BLUE FLAME* OF ASURA!

THAT WOULD BE SACRILEGE!

IT'S SACRILEGE IF WE DON'T! *NOW GO!*

FORM A CORDON AROUND THE BEDCHAMBERS OF THE QUEEN AND THE PRINCESS! BEGIN THE SACRED CHANT!

EACH OF YOU WILL LIGHT HIS TORCH WITH THE SACRED BLUE FLAME.

KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS PURE THE EVIL MUST HAVE NO AVENUE OF APPROACH

CORINTHIA--PRINCE CONN AND KING DERYCK'S ASSAULT PREVENTS THE BRYTHUNIANS AND HYBERBOREANS FROM LINKING UP WITH THEIR CORINTHIAN AND KOTHIAN ALLIES

AS THE BATTLE BECOMES A ROUT...

THE ENEMY FALLS BACK, DERYCK!

THE GODS SMILE!

I MET HER FATHER AND HIS DYNASTY IN ASGARD! GENERATIONS OF PEACE 'TWEEN MY LAND AND YOURS!

AYE, LIFE WOULD BE GOOD THEN, AN END TO THIS WAR!

AT THE NORTHERN LINE

MY LORD, THE BRYTHUNIANS AND HYBERBOREANS ARE FLEEING THE FIELD!

FLEEING? BY MITRA'S BEARD, IF I COULD GIVE THE MICHAEL KOLD WATCH THOSE DOGS RUN!

AT LAST THE WORK THAT I WANT TO DO IN PLANK NOW!

AT THE AQUILONIAN LINES, KING CONAN RECEIVES A COURIER FROM THE CORINTHIAN ARMY

KING CONAN, THERE IS A RUMOR IN OUR RANKS THAT YOU HOLD A MEMBER OF THE CORINTHIAN ROYAL FAMILY HOSTAGE

SPEAK, THEN

THE PRINCESS ILIA *IS* ALIVE SHE IS NOT MY PRISONER- SHE IS *UNDER MY PROTECTION*

THE PRINCESS ILIA BELIEVED TO BE DEAD

YET OUR SCOUTS BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE SEEN A YOUNG WOMAN IN YOUR CAMP THAT COULD BE HER

SHOW HER TO US! YOU SHALL HAVE A *NEW ALLY!*

IN THE ROYAL PALACE OF CORINTHIA IN ARBITANA...

YOU TEMPT MY VENGEANCE

MADRATHUS!

HEAR IT? WHISPERS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE... MUTTERING EVIL

STAY STILL, MY PRINCESS!

I WILL TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IRON EYES. BUT IN YOUR MOUTH IS NOT HEROISM!

DON'T BE TOO CERTAIN, ADURAN!

BUT IN MINE, THERE IS VENGEANCE!

THIS IS THE HANDIWORK OF CALIASTROS! ASURA HAVE MERCY!

SHE'S ON FIRE WITH FEVER, HADRATHUS!

MOTHER, FATHER LERYCK HELP ME!

GREEN FLAMES! CONSUMING ME!

"RAISE HIGH THE BLUE FLAME! SOUND THE CHANT. LET THE SOUND SILENCE THE EVIL!

CRIMSON-- THE FLAMES ARE CRIMSON NOW! CAN'T YOU SEE?

IN CORINTHIA...

YOU WERE MY FATHER'S GENERALS DO YOU STILL KNOW HIS DAUGHTER NOW THAT SHE HAS BECOME A WOMAN?

WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE DEAD

AFTER CALIASTROS MURDERED MY FATHER, KING AECHIDES, RUFIO LED MY MOTHER AND ME TO SAFETY

THE QUEEN DIED AT THE HANDS OF QUEEN LEORA OF OPHIR AVENGE THAT CRIME, TOO!

MY QUEEN

YOU WILL HAVE EARNED MY PARDON

SERVING YOU WILL BE AN HONOR, QUEEN ILIA!

KING CONAN!

QUEEN LEORA'S AMAZONS HAVE JOINED BRAN AL THAK'S NOTHIAN!

THEY THREATEN KING CONN AND KING [illegible]'S POSITION THEY HAVEN'T REGROUPED SINCE THEY PROVED OFF THE HYBORIAN AND BRYTHUNIAN

DEATH TO BRAX-AL-THAR!

DEATH TO LEORA!

PROVE YOUR LOYALTY TO YOUR LAWFUL QUEEN AND TO YOUR NEW ALLIES, GENERALS!

NO MORE, LEORA THE DAY WILL BE OURS WHEN THE CORINTHIANS JOIN MY OTHER FLANK.

MY LORD BRAX-AL-THAR, PREPARE YOURSELF! I HAVE TERRIBLE

THE CORINTHIANS HAVE BETRAYED YOU.

BRAX-AL-THAR, THE CORINTHIANS HAVE JOINED KING CONAN!

BRAX! YOUR THOUGHTS CAN'T HOLD KING CONAN BACK! WE NEED MORE THAN THAT -- WE NEED A COMMANDER WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

ONCE AGAIN, MY FRIEND, WE SHALL PREVAIL!

AS EVER, TROCERO, MY MAN! JOIN ME.

THE MORE, THE MERRIER!

PREPARE TO ADVANCE!

THE ARMIES OF KOTH AND OPHIR ARE TRAPPED! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO

CHARGE!

THEY ADVANCE.

FAREWELL, BRAX.

I'M LEAVING-- I'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY TO DESTROY THAT CIMMERIAN USURPER!

FAREWELL, YOU BLOATED SON OF A TOAD

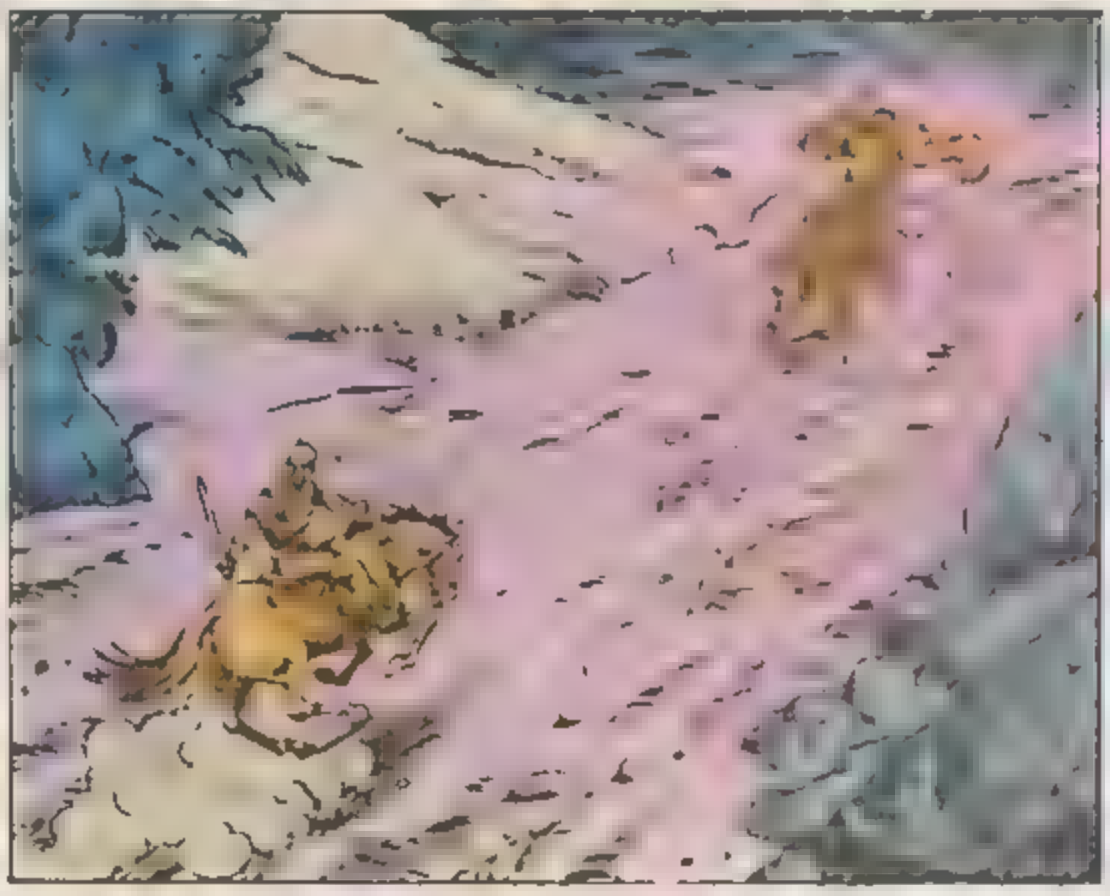
LEORA...

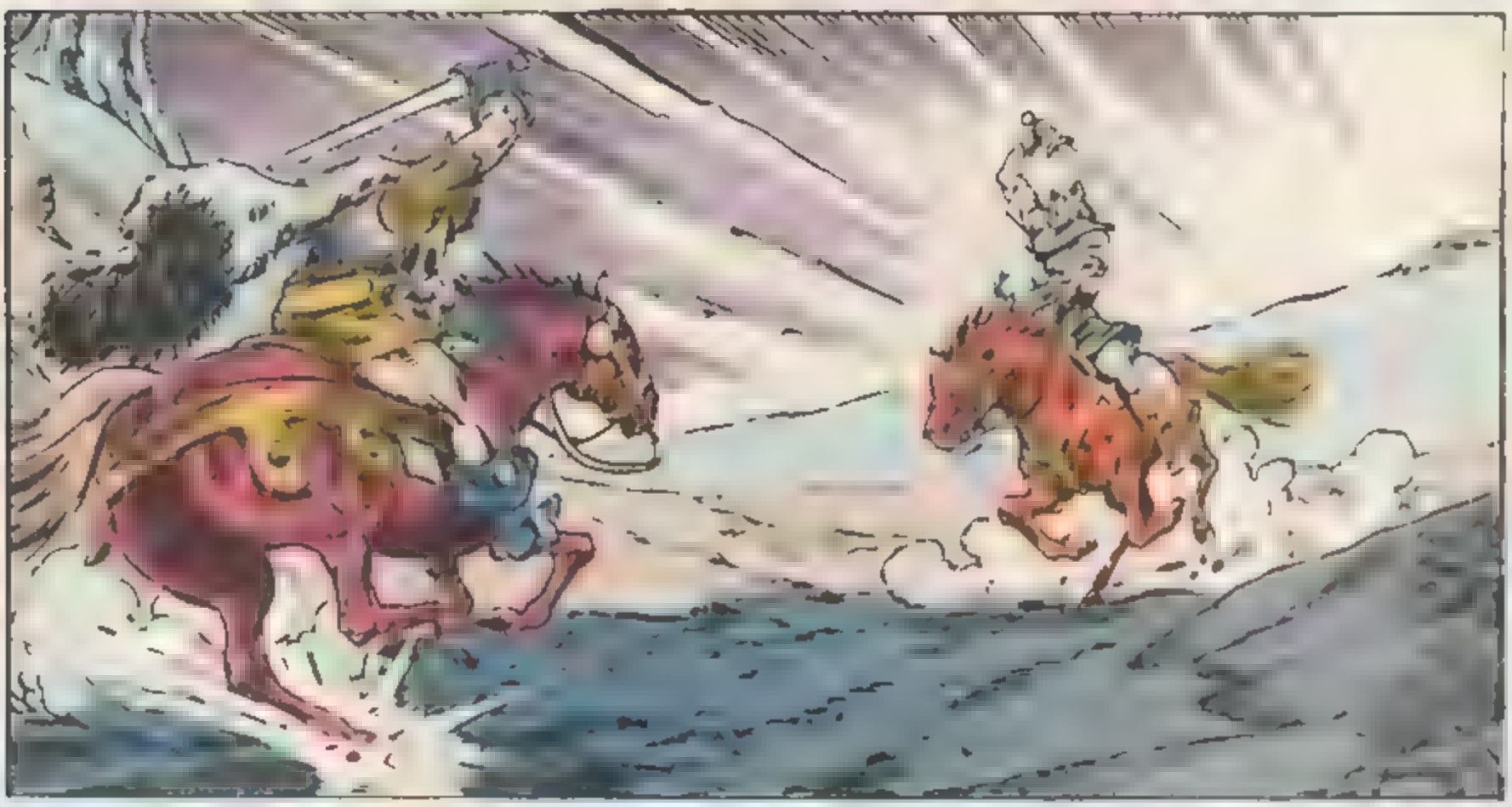
BRAX-AL-THAR!

YOU!

WE HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS, WARLORD.

PRINCE CONN OF AQUILONIA! I'LL PRESENT YOUR HEAD TO YOUR FATHER!





IN THE LAIR OF CALIASTROG

YOU HAVE LOYAL FRIENDS PRINCESS RAEVENWOUND BUT THEY CAN'T SAVE YOU!

HOLD HER! IT'S DANGEROUS IF SHE MOVES NOW!

STAY STILL MY PRINCESS FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILD!

...BURNING... THE ROOM IS ON FIRE CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?

LET THE SACRED CHANTS RING OUT!

THIS IS THE CRITICAL MOMENT.

FLAMES

CRIMSON FLAMES.

WHAT IS THIS NOW?

PURPLE NO, VIOLET NOW ALL AROUND

BLUE.. THE FLAMES ARE *BLUE!*

HER FEVER HAS BROKEN! QUICK, TELL PUBLIUS AND HADRATHUS THE NEWS

WITH PLEASURE!

PUBLIUS. HADRATHUS..

HAVE I. HAVE.. I LOST MY BABY?

NO, MY PRINCESS, *HE'S ALIVE! HE'S BEAUTIFUL!*

WHAT WHAT..

THE PRINCESS HAS A SON! ASGARD HAS A PRINCE! KING CONAN HAS HIS FIRST GRANDCHILD! THE PRINCESS IS FINE! THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

A BOY.. ! ASURA BE PRAISED! IT WORKED!

ASURA BE PRAISED! A ROYAL GRANDSON!

AH, PUBLIUS! YOU ACKNOWLEDGE *MY* GOD!

HOW IS THE CHILD?

PERFECT!

THE QUEEN MUST BE TOLD.

YOU HAVE NEWS FOR US?

YES, MY QUEEN

GENTLY, FUBLIUS

MY QUEEN, MY HEART [illegible]

WE OFFER OUR SORROW

WHERE IS MY HUSBAND?

QUEEN ZENOBIA, I [illegible] SOMETHING TO TELL YOU

[illegible] HAS BEEN YOU A [illegible] ON.

THE [illegible] VING [illegible]

IT [illegible] MY FAULT.

RIDE FOR KING CONAN'S CAMP IN CORINTHIA.

[illegible] THE NEWS GENTLY ABOUT THE QUEEN

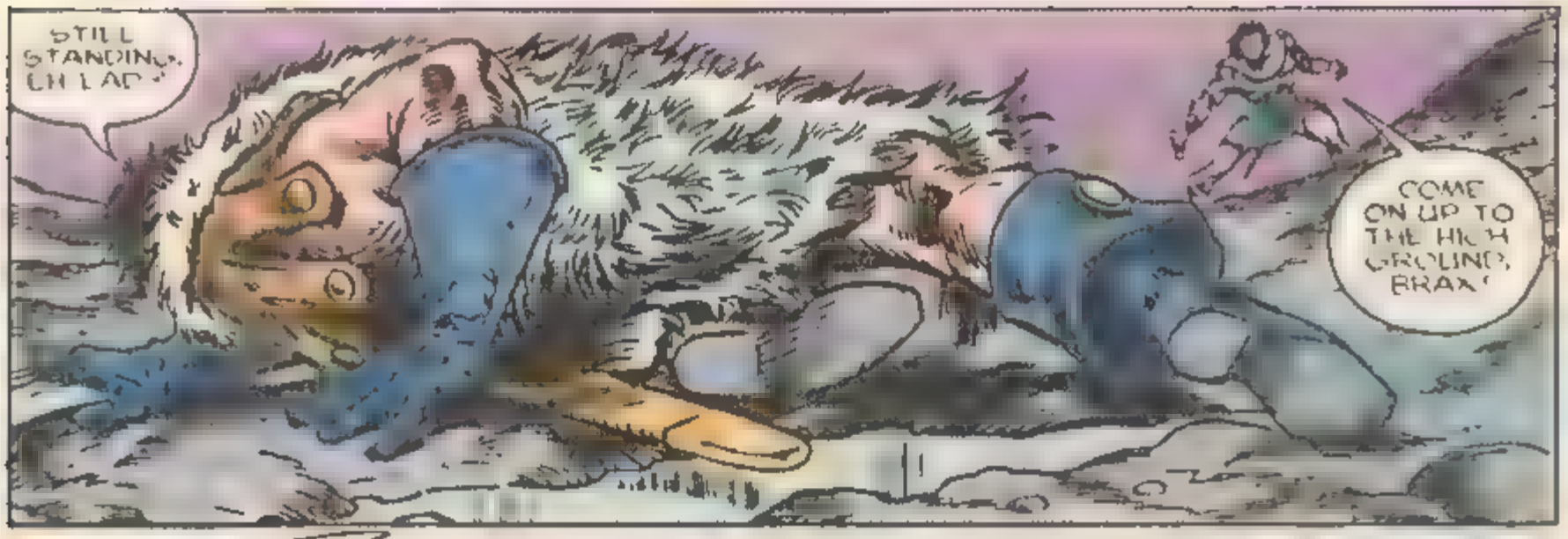
PALLANTIDES, GET YOUR BEST BOWMEN INTO POSITION

NO, CONAN THAT

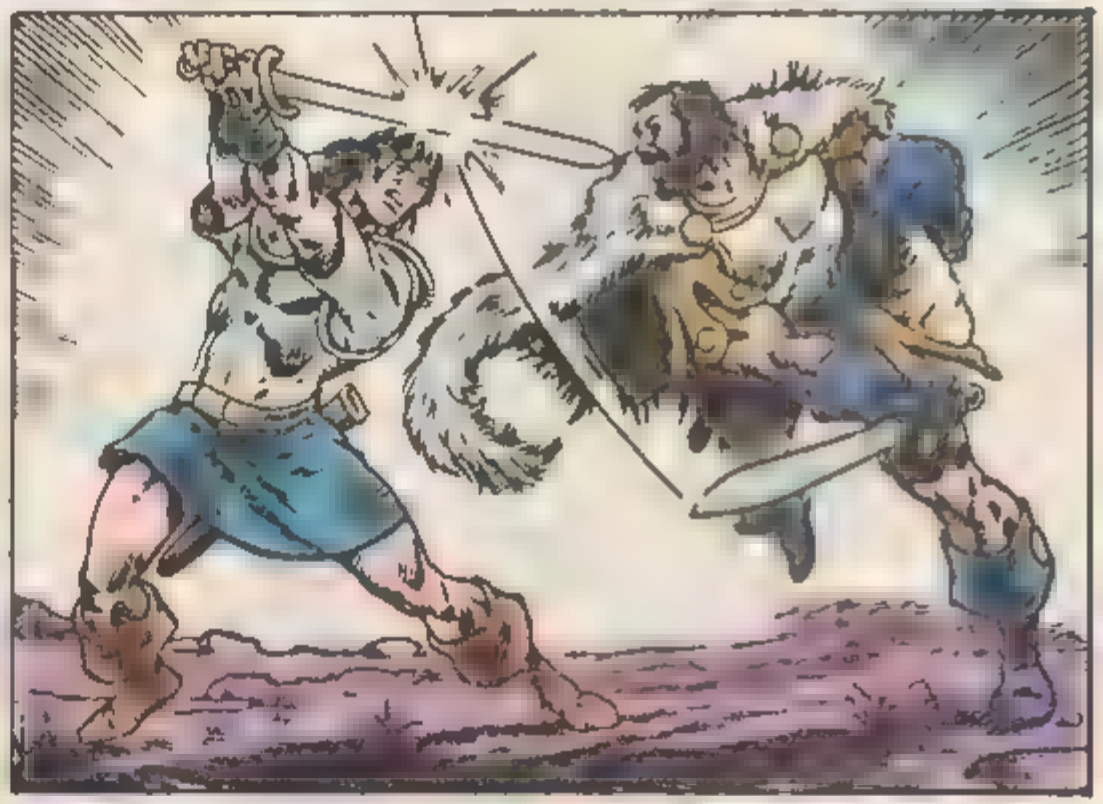
HE'S THE FUTURE KING AND EMPEROR

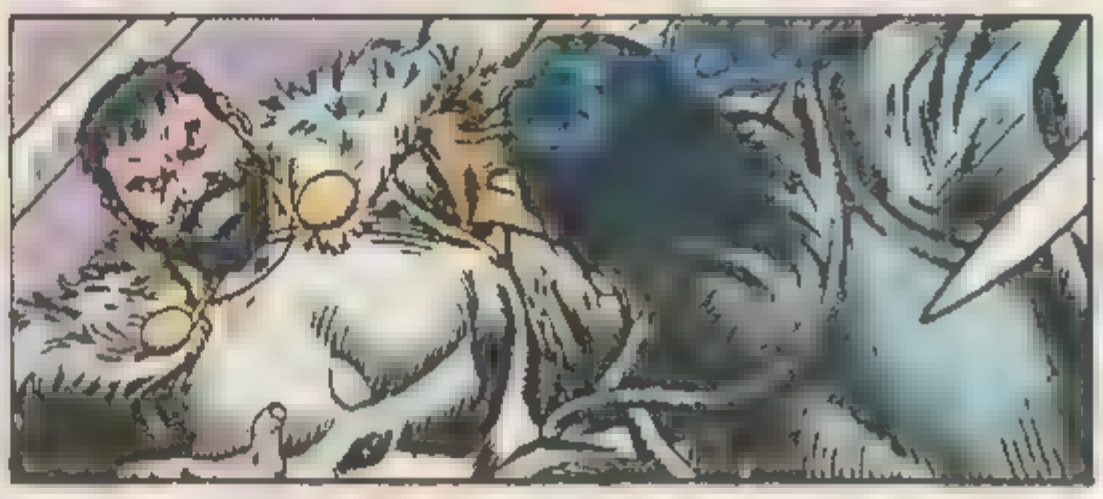
TO YOUR FEET, SON!

CONAN! HE'S A MAN HE'S GOT TO FEND FOR HIMSELF


STILL STANDING, LIL' LAD?
COME ON UP TO THE HIGH GROUND, BRAX!

THIS TIME YOU WON'T GET UP!





THE WARLORD HAS ADVANTAGES...

AVE MORE SOLID MUSCLES AND YEARS OF EXPERIENCE...

BUT HE'S NOT HALF AS CLEVER AS THE PRINCE

WHO IS?

IN THE ROYAL PALACE OF ARBITANA CALIASTRO RECEIVES A VISITOR WHILE HE AWAITS NEWS OF BRAX AL THARSTAT

CONGRATULATIONS CALIASTRO! IT'S A SPLENDID VICTORY THAT YOU'VE BROUGHT US.

WHAT'S THE MATTER YOU OLD GOAT?

I'LL BE THE DEATH OF YOU, CALIASTRO!

MAGICIAN, YOU HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR

AND I MEAN TO SEE THAT YOU DO.

...NO... NO... MERCY!

...MERCY...MERCY.

...MERCY!

WAKE UP, YOU OLD FOOL!

TIME TO HIDE! THE POPULACE HAS CLOSED THE CITY GATES TO OUR TROOPS. CONAN'S ARMY HAS THEM TRAPPED BEFORE THE CITY WALLS

LEAD ME TO A PLACE OF SAFETY, LEORA THEN I'LL INVOKE ONE MORE SPELL.

BEFORE THE RANKS OF THE OPPOSING ARMIES, THE DUEL DRAGS ON

BY YMIR, THEY MUST BE EXHAUSTED BY NOW!

TIRED BOY? I'LL PUT YOU TO REST - FOREVER!

LET'S GET DOWN TO EARTH!

I'LL TOSS YOUR HEAD AT YOUR FATHER'S FEET!

THEY WON'T BE SO EASY!

THIS IS IT, BOY!

CONN! I'M COMING, SON!

BRAX-AL-THAR!

MITRA...

...YOU'VE KILLED ME, BOY...

AGGGH!

CROM'S BONES! THAT'S A NEAT PIECE OF WORK.

CROM AND MITRA, YOU'VE SLAIN THE WARLORD OF KOTH, SON.

THE CORINTHIANS HAVE CLOSED THE GATES OF ARBITANA TO THE ENEMY. THEY'RE TRAPPED BEFORE THE WALLS OF THE CITY.

THEN SOUND THE ADVANCE, PALLANTIDES.

AT THE GATES OF ARBITANA, THE REMNANTS OF THE ARMIES OF KOTH AND OPHIR RALLY FOR A LAST STAND...

YOU'VE FOUGHT BRAVELY, BUT NOW, THE CAUSE IS LOST. SURRENDER AND YOUR LIVES WILL BE SPARED.

NO SURRENDER! WE WILL DIE FIRST!

THEY'RE GOING TO MOUNT A SUICIDE CHARGE! THEY'LL TAKE AS MANY OF US WITH THEM AS THEY CAN! ASSEMBLE THE ARCHERS!

MAKE YOUR ARROWS COUNT!

STEADY... STEADY...

NOW!

AND FEW OF THEM REACHED THE AQUILONIAN LINES. BY DUSK, THERE WERE NONE LEFT ALIVE...

CROM, I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'VE FOUGHT WARS, KNOWN VICTORY AND DEFEAT, BUT NOW I'M SICK OF IT.

WE'LL HAVE TO WORK THROUGH THE NIGHT TO BUILD MASS FUNERAL PYRES, YOUR MAJESTY.

GIVE THE MEN A CHANCE TO REST. BUT I WANT THE DEAD! COLLECTED BY DAWN.

CONAN, A COURIER FROM OUR COURT. IT COULD BE NEWS OF RADEGUND AND THE QUEEN.

YOUR MAJESTY... YOUR MAJESTY...

TELL ME!

LET ME SEE, FATHER!

DERYCK, RADEGUND HAS BOURNE YOU A SON AND HEIR.

BUT, MY MOTHER HAS LOST HER CHILD. PUBLIUS WRITES THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF BLACK MAGIC. HE GIVES CREDIT TO THE ASURANS FOR SAVING THE LIVES OF THE QUEEN AND RADEGUND AND HER CHILD.

BLACK MAGIC-- CALIASTROS! WE BETTER FINISH THAT OLD DEVIL ONCE AND FOR ALL!

QUIET, RUFIO. LEAVE CONAN ALONE WITH HIS GRIEF.

CALIASTROS, I WILL CRUSH YOU.

DEEP BENEATH THE ROYAL PALACE OF ARBITANA...

THIS IS WHERE RUFIO HID THE ROYAL FAMILY. I ESCAPED AND FOUND MY WAY THROUGH THE LABYRINTH.

NOW YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY BACK? YOU'RE A CLEVER MINX, LEORA.

CONAN WON'T REST UNTIL WE'RE BOTH DEAD.

OR UNTIL *HE IS DEAD--!*

STAY HERE WITH ME, LEORA. WE WILL PLAN OUR FINAL REVENGE! CONAN WILL CERTAINLY SEEK ME OUT HERE.

PLAN YOUR OWN RECEPTION FOR CONAN! I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND.

I AM GOING TO TARANTIA TO TAKE MY REVENGE ON CONAN'S FAMILY.

F. Bator

NEXT ISSUE: *Of* DEATH *and the* DREAMER!